



## Soldiers Daily Life



## Education Plan

**Overview:** You have just enlisted in the Army to fight as a soldier in the Civil War. You get a uniform and equipment that you are responsible for. But what is your daily life like? If you go out on campaign what do you have to take with you? Find out what the busy schedule of a soldier was like!

**Grades:** 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 1 hour

### Learning Objectives

After this program students will be able to:

- Exhibit how Civil War soldiers lived on a daily basis.
- Identify and interpret the items that were taken with a soldier on campaign.

### Educational Standards

From the South Carolina Curriculum and Standards available online at

<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/cso/standards/ss/> &  
<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/cso/standards/math/>

#### Social Studies

3-4.4, 3-4.6, 4-6.4, 4-6.6, 8-3.6

#### Mathematics

**Numbers and Operations:** 2-IIIC.4, 5-IIIB.3, 8-IIIA.1, 9-12 IIIA.1

**Algebra:** 3-5 IB.1, 7-IIB.2

## **Materials**

- Common Soldier Activity
- A Day in the life of a Civil War Soldier
- Soldier Supplies
- Pencils

## **Directions for the Activity**

**Step 1** – Have the students discuss their daily schedule. Ask if it varies at all during the week? After you have gone over that, read to them or have them read “A Day in the life of a Civil War Soldier.”

**Step 2** – Once they have finished reading that pass out, the Common Soldier Activity sheet and have the students complete it. After they have completed it ask them how much their packs weighed? Also ask what additional items they thought to bring with them other than those that were listed? You may also want to survey the class on what items they thought were most important to bring?

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CIVIL WAR SOLDIER FROM 1861-1865

Imagine you are no longer a student. You have joined the army as a private in the artillery. As a private in the Confederate army, you will be paid \$132 a year, or \$11 each month. You will be paid \$156 a year, or \$13 each month, if you are a Union soldier. Your enlistment (joining) in the army will last for five years.

Shortly after enlisting, you are sent to a place called the Camp of Instruction (basic training). At the camp you are issued a uniform. This uniform includes the following items: a wool coat, wool trousers with suspenders, wool socks, leather shoes, a cotton shirt (and a wool shirt to wear in the winter), ankle length drawers (long Johns or underwear), a kepi ["KEP-E"] (hat), and a great coat (winter overcoat). Be careful and take good care of your uniform. If you don't, the army can make you pay for any clothing or equipment issued to you that is lost or damaged.

The Camp of Instruction will last several weeks. In the Camp, you will learn the School of the Soldier. This means instructors (teachers) will teach you how to stand at attention, salute, march, and perform many of the other duties of a soldier. As an artillery soldier, you will receive special training on how to load, fire, and take care of cannons.

As a soldier, you are on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Monday through Saturday your day at the fort will generally go like this:

5:00 a.m.- A bugler will sound (play) "reveille" on a bugle. Everyone must get up, get dressed and prepare (wash your face and shave) for morning roll call. In the winter "reveille" is played at 6:00 a.m.

5:15 a.m.- The bugler sounds "assembly" and everyone (except those who are sick or on guard duty) falls in for roll call. When the sergeant calls your name, you answer, "Here, Sergeant!" After roll call, announcements, assignments, and instructions for the day are issued. Once this is completed you are dismissed.

6:00 a.m.- The next bugle call is "breakfast call." You have one hour to eat.

7:00 a.m. – "Fatigue call" is played telling the soldiers to prepare for inspection. You must make sure your musket, uniform, bunk, and barracks are clean.

8:00 a.m. – After inspections, the bugler plays "drill call." For the next four hours, until noon, you will practice all the things you learned at the Camp of Instruction.

12:00 p.m. – "Dinner call" is sounded and you are allowed to eat your lunch.

1:00 p.m.- "Drill call" is sounded again. Until 4:00 p.m. you drill, drill, and drill.

4:00 p.m. – You will spend this time cleaning your equipment, barracks, cannons, and the fort.

6:00 p.m. – “Attention” is called to give you a few minutes to get ready for roll call. Next, the bugler plays “assembly” and everyone falls in for dress parade roll call. This means everyone is in full uniform. You are carrying your musket and wearing all your equipment. After answering to roll call, the guard duty assignments are made and then you are dismissed.

7:00 p.m. – The bugler now plays “assembly of the guard.” Those soldiers assigned to guarding the fort begin performing this duty. The remaining soldiers eat their evening meal and relax.

8:30 p.m. – “Attention” is played followed by “assembly. At this time roll call is taken and you are dismissed.

9:00 p.m. – “Tattoo” is sounded. This means everyone must go to bed. Your day is finally over.

On Sunday the routine is the same except for drill. In the place of drill, everyone spends the morning polishing and cleaning everything, and then attend church services. In the afternoon, everyone prepares for a dress parade. Everyone wears their best uniform and marches back and forth on the fort’s parade ground. After doing this for a couple of hours, you are dismissed and have the rest of the day as free time.